

Over 200 Fantastic Ways To Get More Out Of Life This Fall Inside

1999/2000 Budget Addresses Priorities, Enhances Resources



City Manager **Floyd T. Johnson** and staff are ready to set in motion a plan that will take the City of Fort Lauderdale into the next millennium.

With a budget that calls for no increase in the tax rate, the City Manager had previously gained City Commission concurrence to realign existing resources to improve efficiency.

"The proposed budget calls for no tax increase for the average homeowner with a homestead exemption, yet addresses City Commission and citizen priorities," said Johnson. "This proposed budget reflects my philosophy and sets the course of direction to provide responsive and quality customer service to citizens, the City Commission, external agencies and visitors."

The budget, totaling \$334 million, lowers the operating tax rate from last year's 5.0062 to 4.9574.

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Focus On Fort Lauderdale



A community newsletter published by the City of Fort Lauderdale

August/September 1999

Police Offer Jammin' Alternative For Youth

Jammin' has a whole new meaning to more than 400 Fort Lauderdale elementary, middle and high school students.

Instead of spending lazy days hanging out at the mall or sitting in front of the television, several hundred Fort Lauderdale youth spent the summer playing sports, taking field trips and participating in activities organized by the City of Fort Lauderdale Police.

Teens at Sunrise Middle, Fort Lauderdale High and Stranahan High Schools took part in an expanded version of a summertime Community Policing Initiative known as COP JAM, Community Oriented Policing Juvenile Alternative Motivation.

"COP JAM gives teens a whole new outlook on law enforcement," said **Sgt. Harvey Jacques**, one of 15 officers assigned at the COP JAM sites from the Police Youth Services Unit. "They interact with the officers as coaches, role models and ultimately life-long friends. COP JAM also provides the youth with free quality entertainment that keeps them off the streets."

- See Teens on Page 4



Summer is all about fun. City of Fort Lauderdale Police Officer Ivory L. Nelson, accompanied by local coaches, tackles an afternoon of football at Sunrise Middle School with a group of teen COP JAM participants.

City Commission Meetings

Live On Your Screen



Conference Agenda

Old/New Business

Advisory Board

Updates

City Manager Reports

Regular Meeting

Presentations

Consent Agenda

Purchasing Agenda

Motions

Public Hearings

Ordinances

Resolutions

The City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings are now appearing on the big screen - your computer screen, that is, via Fort Lauderdale Online, the City's official website at <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us>.

This customer-service and technological enhancement, known as streaming video, allows citizens to watch the regular and conference City Commission meetings right from their computers.

The July 7 regular Commission meeting was the City's first live webcast. The meetings were then stored as archives on one of the City's Internet servers. Even now citizens can watch the July 7 Commission meeting.

"The key word here is accessibility," said **Richard Long**, City Webmaster in the Public Information Office. "Now citizens don't have to miss anything. If residents are traveling, they can still watch the Commission meetings on the Internet. The most recent meetings have been archived, so residents can watch later at their leisure."

Here's how it works. You link to the Real Video City Commission page on the City's website. On that page, you'll see links to the next live webcast or to archives of past meetings. Click the meeting you want to see, then the power of the Internet does the rest.

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City of Fort Lauderdale
Public Information Office
101 N.E. 3rd Ave., Suite 300
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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A Message From Mayor Jim Naugle



Citizens Reminded Hurricane Season Still Underway

With families winding down from summer vacation and gearing up to get back to school, it is important to note that we are in the middle of hurricane season.

June 1 through November 30 marks the window of hurricane season for our coast. Weather experts have predicted this season to be an active one. Furthermore, FEMA, the Florida Emergency Management Agency, reports that August has historically been a busy month for tropical storm development. FEMA's records show that between 1994 and 1998, there have been 18 hurricanes and/or tropical storms during the eighth month of the year. Only 1997 saw no tropical development during August. With this outlook, it is crucial for citizens to realize that preparation is a key to surviving. Hurricanes carry the potential for great damage to our lives and our property. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prepare for such an event. If you haven't already, now is a good time to take these steps. Here are some suggestions:

- * Purchase basic supplies;
- * Review insurance coverage information;
- * Keep an accurate account of your property;
- * Have a plan ready for your family and pets should you need to evacuate your home;
- * Get to know your CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) neighbors. These are neighbors who have obtained the basic first aid skills as well as registered to assist the City's emergency personnel in assessing damage. By logging on to <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us> - Fort Lauderdale Online - we can help guide you through preliminary preparations and direct you to the proper resources. For more information, contact the Broward American Red Cross at (954) 763-9900.

Palm Aire Village To Vote On Municipality

On September 7, Palm Aire Village citizens will decide whether or not to call the City of Fort Lauderdale their new home.

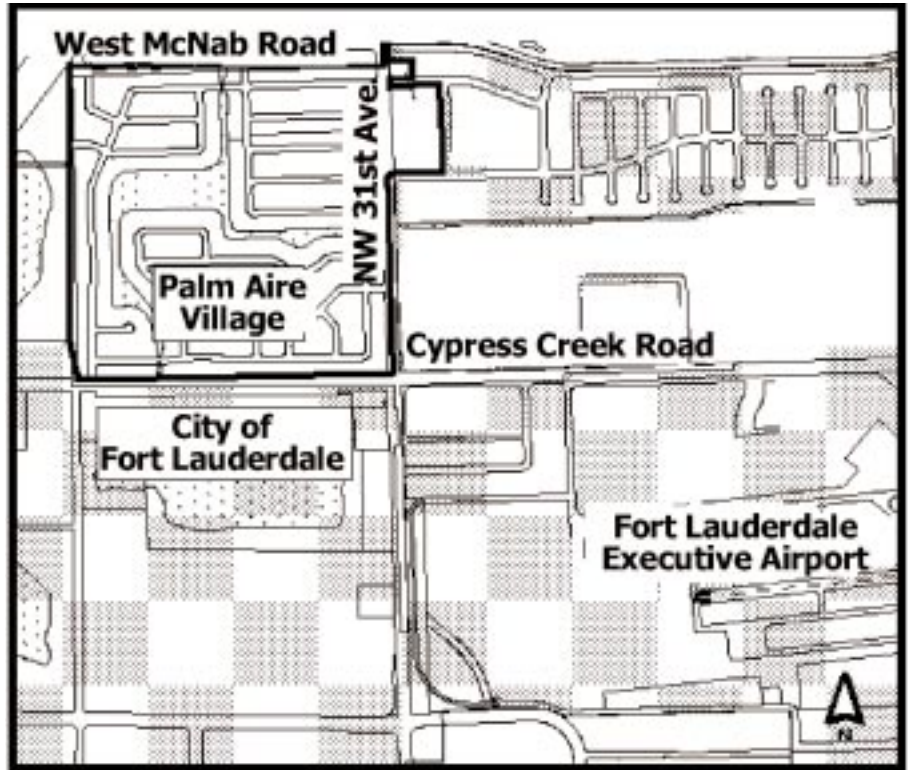
The City of Fort Lauderdale is one of three municipalities on a special annexation ballot along with Pompano Beach and North Lauderdale.

Palm Aire Village, consisting of approximately 600 housing units that represents a population of more than 1,500 residents, is one of the unincorporated areas of Broward County involved with the annexation process. All of the county's unincorporated areas must choose a City

by 2010 or have their municipality decided for them. Palm Aire Village residents will meet with representatives from all three municipalities to learn about the respective services available to them.

Palm Aire Village borders McNab Road on the north, NW 31st Avenue on the east, NW 62nd Street on the south and the Mariner's Cove development on the west.

"The residents of Palm Aire Village will make a wonderful addition to our City of Fort Lauderdale family," said **City Manager Floyd T. Johnson**. "As a City that provides a wealth of services, resources and amenities unmatched by others, we are confident that Palm Aire residents will find the quality of life they seek in the City of Fort Lauderdale."



Map courtesy of Jon Stahl, Assistant Planner for City of Fort Lauderdale

City Streams Video of Commission Meetings

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You can even watch or listen while performing other computer work. The only requirement is that you have a piece of free software called Real Player installed on your computer. A link to the software is on the Real Video City Commission page for those who don't have the software.

By adding this webcast of the Commission meetings, the City is once more in the forefront of digitally conscious cities.

"There are only a handful of cities, especially in South Florida, webcasting Commission meetings," says Long. "A few large cities, like Chicago and Santa Monica, are doing so, as are some states, so we're up there with the leading players."

The next time you take a cruise to the islands

or a business trip to Tallahassee, you can still be present at the City's Commission meeting.

From your laptop or from any available computer, log onto the Internet and connect to the City's streaming video feature available at http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/commission/real_video.html.

RealPlayer G2 must be properly installed and configured on your computer prior to viewing the Commission meetings. RealPlayer is available free by hyperlinking from the City's website to RealNetwork. The download and installation usually takes, on a speedy Internet connection, 15 minutes.

Teens Get Help With Grades After School

Right Combination of Recreation + Education In After School Program Gets A+

The After School Intramural and Arts Program (ASIA) at two area high schools earned top grades from the Broward County School Board and Partners in Education.

The ASIA programs at Fort Lauderdale and Stranahan High Schools were among 23 programs selected to receive Partnerships In Education Awards.

A total of 125 nominations were reviewed by



With the stroke of a brush, ASIA participants at Sunrise Middle School get some artistic tips.

a committee of community and school system representatives who met to recognize the innovative ways organizations and schools work together to provide real life experiences and applications of academics for students.

JoAnne Boggus, Principal of Fort Lauderdale High School, and **Egle Gallagher**, Principal of Stranahan High, nominated the program for the awards because of the positive impacts ASIA has made on the achievements of the students who participate. Both agree that the key to its success is the balanced offering of educational and recreational activities.

"Our partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale is an integral part of our academic program and plays a significant role in the success of many Stranahan High students," said Gallagher. "The program's ability to integrate its

needs-based benefits with the curriculum is key to providing the youth with the essentials to achieving success in academics, athletics and future career endeavors."

The ASIA Program, a product of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Teen Initiative, has more than 1,000 students registered at three other schools: Dillard High, Whiddon Rogers Alternative Education Center and Sunrise Middle School. ASIA combines a wide variety of educational and recreational activities designed to meet the requested needs of the youth. These activities include sports, arts and crafts, chorus, poetry, rap, ACT/SAT preparatory classes, computer laboratory training, cooking and more. ASIA programs are free to all students. For more information about the Teen Initiative Programs, contact **Tim McGovern** at (954) 468-1627.

Proposed Budget Increases Resources, Not Taxes

The City of Fort Lauderdale is a diverse community booming with revitalization and economic development. As we gear up for the year 2000, it is necessary to adopt a philosophy and business practice that meets the current priorities and future changing needs of the citizens and City Commission.

With the expertise of City staff, I have formulated a budget that reflects this forward-thinking approach. Ultimately, the budget makes way for facing the current and future challenges to providing responsive and quality customer service. This budget has also been prepared by challenging City staff to re-evaluate their operational procedures and resources. After careful examination and strategic planning, we relied on four basic questions to address those needs and priorities:

1. What should the City be doing in FY 1999/2000?
2. How should we do it?

3. What should we do it with?
 4. How can we preserve what is accomplished?
- The result is a budget that:
- * Optimizes the utilization of existing resources and assets;
 - * Works hand in hand with an organizational realignment that yields effectiveness, accountability and results;
 - * Promotes an approach to development and planning with a long-term perspective;
 - * Requires staff to address, maintain and consistently improve productivity standards by engaging in quarterly reviews, updates and communications.

I am confident that the proposed budget is one that responds to our community's most critical needs today in a fiscally prudent way and one that will take us into the next millennium.

The budget can be viewed on the City's web site (<http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us>). Extra copies are also available at all Broward County libraries within

A Message From City Manager Floyd T. Johnson



the City, and from the City Clerk's Office and Research and Budget Office at City Hall.

I encourage citizens to express their suggestions and comments at the public hearings scheduled for 6 p.m. on September 9 and 23.

1999/2000 Budget Increases Resources, Services

-From page 1

The following are a few highlights regarding funding devoted to Commission priorities:

* Funds proposed are being accumulated for sanitary sewer special assessment projects.

* Additional resources are included for code enforcement to address trash cleanup, residential maintenance standards and other code priorities.

* A new citizen response software system will be purchased to more efficiently and effectively track citizen concerns.

* Proposed budget funds provide for continuing the use of the Youth Coordinating Council, and the various youth programs established in the last few years which have made such a positive impact on the youth of the City.

* Budget funds also provide for grant matching of six civilian positions in the Police Department. This will free-up six police officers who will be redeployed to optimize the expertise

Public Hearing Dates
Thursday, Sept. 9
Thursday, Sept. 23
Both meetings will be held
in the 1st floor Commission Chambers
of City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Ave.
Meetings will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

of their law enforcement training.

Other funds devoted to increasing resources are proposed for the following:

* Diversity Management Program: Funds are proposed to add resources to enhance this program, which helps maintain a work environment that is fair and values every employee of the City.

* Providing sufficient resources to facilitate

development: Funding is included to enhance staff support and continue implementation of the Commission approved Community Area Planning (CAP) initiative.

* The City-operated Fire-Rescue program: The proposed budget provides for a full-year's funding of:

- 54 additional firefighter/paramedics, and the operation;
- Maintenance of 16 rescue vehicles to ensure 10 are in service at all times.

Funds are also allocated for fire-rescue dispatchers, medical supplies, and a billing clerk to assist with patient transport revenue collection.

Other budget highlights call for a shifting of resources through the use of existing assets. These are evident in the following manner:

* Commission priorities such as enhanced schools partnerships, crime victim follow-up and ensuring a smooth transition of services to the homeless in our community, can be addressed with existing resources.

Get CERTified



If you're not a CERT member you could be denying yourself, your family and neighborhood of valuable emergency preparedness information and skills.

The City of Fort Lauderdale CERT Program is an educational initiative for local citizens that prepares them with preparedness skills necessary in the event of a disaster. The program spans a seven week period and offers training on several aspects of emergency management. Sessions include interactive hands-on training with a variety of practical exercises in a wide range of topics including: disaster preparedness; fire suppression; disaster medical operations; CPR; light search and rescue and more. For more information, call 396-3623.

Scoping Police Work

There's no better way to learn about your police department than to become a part of it.

The Citizen's Police Academy provides citizens with the opportunity to observe the inner workings of the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Sign up to reserve your seat for the next session beginning August 25. For 13 weeks, classes will be conducted from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. one night a week. Topics addressed include: community policing, officer selection, drug enforcement, special investigations, communications and more.

Interested participants must complete an application that is available by calling the Police Training Unit at 761-5605 or by downloading one from the City's web page at <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us>



Online Child Safety Tips Offered

The information superhighway is full of resources and information. It is also filled with inappropriate material and child predators.

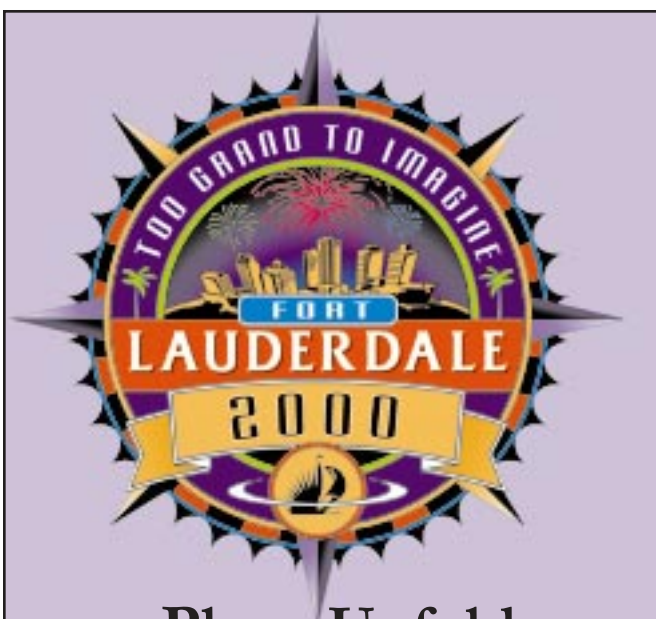
The City of Fort Lauderdale Community Policing Demonstration Center is offering "Protecting Your Child On-line" on August 19. This three-hour workshop, starting at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the Demonstration Center, 1113 E. Sunrise Blvd.

Learn how to limit your child's access to prevent visitation of inappropriate sites and receipt of inappropriate emails. Also, learn how to prepare your child against child predators on-line. Call Detective Harrington at 759-6428 for more information and to register.

Don't Get Fined For Trashing Your Curbside Appeal

In order to assist residents in maximizing their curbside appeal, the City of Fort Lauderdale kindly reminds residents that bulk trash is picked up once each month. Placing bulk trash on your curb or swale more than 24 hours in advance of your regularly scheduled pickup day is a violation of the City Code.

Residents who violate this minimum code standard may be at risk of acquiring heavy fines as a result of a City issued citation. Upon receipt of a citation, residents have 48 hours to remove bulk trash from a curb or swale. Residents who fail to remove the debris will be charged a minimum of \$160 for the removal of up to 10 yards of debris. Additional charges may apply.



Plans Unfold For Family-Oriented Millennium Party

With less than five months remaining until Year 2000, plans for a family-oriented Millennium celebration in Fort Lauderdale continue to unfold.

Here's what's already on tap:

- * Plans for the designated party zone on New Year's Eve have been finalized with the City Commission's approval of official road closings. The designated zone, which will feature five areas of live entertainment including bands, food, millennium souvenirs and spectacular fireworks and light shows, will stretch from the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, travel east through the historic district on S.E. 2nd Street, and along Las Olas Boulevard. A map of the area will appear in the October/November issue of *Focus On Fort Lauderdale*.

- * The Downtowner Saloon & Steak House is spearheading the Downtowner New River Boat Parade 2000 with help from Marine Industries Association of South Florida and the Lauderdale Small Boat Club. The organizing committee anticipates at least 50 decorated boats to take part in the parade which is planned for New Year's Eve 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. A theme for the parade is in the works. Anyone interested in getting involved with the committee is asked to contact John Baker at **463-9800**.

- * Parking and transportation plans are also in development to facilitate traffic flow prior, during and after the Millennium Celebration.

- * Preliminary plans are in the works for a beach celebration, Y2K DAY, on New Year's Day. A kick off event, Sunrise At Sunrise, is also in the planning stages.

- * A Munchkin Ball, complete with activities and fireworks for the younger generation, is also planned.

For a listing of sponsorship and Millennium Celebration opportunities contact: **Debbie Boland**, City Festivals Coordinator, at **489-3255** or **Debbie Gronsbell** of Sci-Fi Megaplex at **769-9100**.

Youth Jam To Alternative Summer Program

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The program, which started out as a one-day track and field event in March 1996, attracted such an interest from the community, that it was expanded into a summerlong program serving as a deterrent for youth crimes. It serves as yet another youth initiative administered in cooperation with the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The six-week summer program, held Monday through Friday noon to 4 p.m. through August, is offered at no cost to the youth. The program includes lunch, and a variety of activities to choose from including swimming, weight training, basketball and field trips.

"It's been such a hit with the youngsters that we hope to be able to offer COP JAM as



Sunrise Middle School's new state-of-the-art pool offers this group of COP JAM participants a place to brush up on swimming skills and a way to stay cool in the afternoons.

an all-day program next summer," said **Sgt. Jacques**.

Training Program Seeks Volunteer Coaches

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer where you can really make a difference?

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide range of sports for all youth. It also offers adults the opportunity to serve as volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team moms and team dads.

"Each season, the City's recreation programs top a new record in the number of sports teams that form and the number of youth who join," said **Michael Kalvort**, Recreation Programmer II. "We depend on our volunteering adults to help us make a difference in the recreational well-being of our youth."

Coaches and assistant coaches are offered a six-hour training course that is certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) and administered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Team moms and dads play a vital role by collaborating with coaches and assistant coaches in keeping the practices flowing smoothly and keeping the lines of communication open among parents, youth and team members. Team moms and dads are

not required to take the training course, but are encouraged to work with the coaches under the same principals set forth by the NYSCA.

The NYSCA certification program is designed to train volunteer coaches on their responsibilities when working with children in sports that follow a strict code of ethics. More than one million coaches have been certified worldwide through more than 2,200 NYSCA chapters that exist among parks and recreation departments and other youth organizations. Since its inception in 1997, the City's chapter has certified more than 550 adults. The clinics provide a full scale of information including first aid, nutrition, safety, organizing fun practices, how to teach fundamentals of the sport and more.

"It's a rewarding experience to see these kids absorb your training and develop their skills," said **Warren Ullman**, an assistant basketball coach.

To volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, team mom or dad, contact Michael Kalvort in the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department at **847-3789**.



EZ-ing Into Business...

Tech Molding & Tooling is getting a hand on the savings of doing business within the City of Fort Lauderdale Enterprise Zone.

Chief Executive Officer Philip Newman said his firm will perform custom molding, make in-house tools for its projects and operate a computer-driven mold-design center. This new company, located in a 30,000 square foot facility at 1919 NE 19th St., is a custom injection molder that designs and manufactures a full range of plastic products including cups, automotive parts, appliance casings and more. Most recently, the company was noted for the invention of the Pet Perch - an automobile car seat for small pets. The company is working with pet stores to carry this innovative safety pet accessory.

Already the benefits of opening shop in the Enterprise Zone are paying off. With a warehouse that will employ more than 150 people from the Enterprise Zone in the next year, the company will be able to take advantage of thousands of dollars in job tax credits. As an Enterprise Zone business, the company will also qualify for thousands of dollars in savings for office equipment and machinery, as well as low interest Enterprise zone loan benefits.



Philip Newman, CEO of Tech Molding & Tooling, oversees the production of plastic cups with one of his employees.

Discount Card Offers Beach-going Residents A Break

Beach parking just got better for residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Beginning October 1, 1999, residents will be able to take advantage of a 50 percent discount on parking at the Las Olas Intracoastal Parking Lot with a new Resident Discount Program launched by the City's Parking Office. The 386-space lot, just steps from the beach, is located adjacent to the East Las Olas Bridge and Las Olas Marina on the Intracoastal Waterway.

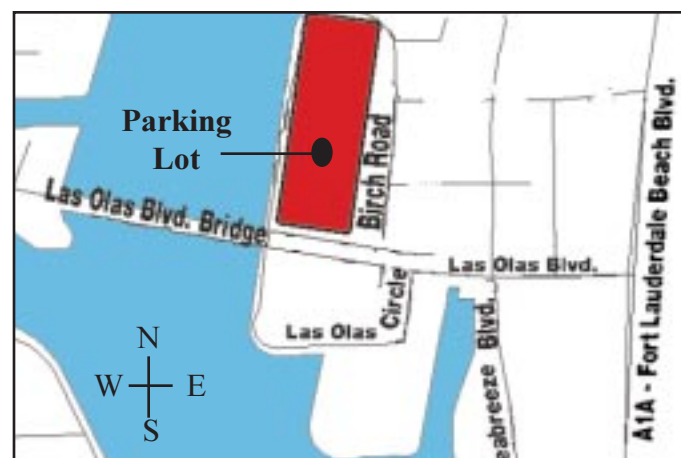
Once a resident purchases a Resident Discount Card for \$3.00 plus tax, he or she will pay only \$.35 cents per hour to park between the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. - that's a savings of \$.40 cents per hour over the current rate of \$.75 cents. Residents parking during the hours of 7 p.m. and 4 a.m. pay only \$.50 cents per hour - a savings of \$.50 cents over the current rate of \$1. Please note that meters have a six-hour maximum time limit.

No money is accepted between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. as the lot is closed for cleaning. Vehicles parked between these hours will be cited and towed.

Here is how the card works:

1. Enter your metered space number
2. Insert your Discount Card
3. Insert coin or bills for payment (card does not work in conjunction with credit cards).
4. Press the green button to validate transaction
5. Remove your card and retain your receipt

The directions are also shown on the back of the card. Discount cards are valid for the one year trial period and can be purchased from the City of Fort Lauderdale Parking Office, located at 290 NE 3rd Avenue, Monday through Friday, between



the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. Proof of residency is required at time of purchase. Please provide a vehicle registration and a utility bill or another bill showing name and current address of resident. For additional information, call the Parking Office during these hours at **468-1600**.



Do's and Don'ts To Addressing Property

Do drivers experience difficulty finding your property? If so, you could be putting your life and home at risk.

The City's ordinance on property identification requires that all properties display the address in an area that is accessible from the street.

"When your home is not properly identified it requires emergency and public safety personnel to

assume the location of a property which can result in a delay," said **Chris Weir**, Assistant Fire Marshal of the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department's Fire Prevention Bureau.

In an effort to assist property owners in displaying their address properly, the City recommends the area remain clear of landscaping and other decorative objects that may obstruct its view from the street.

Homeowner Tip... When considering where and how to properly and attractively identify your property, keep it clean and simple. Maintain the area clear of landscaping and other objects that may obstruct its view from the street.

F.L.A.S.H. Tunes Into Music Education

Violins are bringing new music to the ears of a group of students in afterschool programs.

Thanks to the coordination of the City of Fort Lauderdale After School Hours Program, known as F.L.A.S.H., and the Youth Orchestra of Florida, 14 students at Harbordale Elementary participated in an innovative program aimed at introducing them to music appreciation.

Launched as a pilot program under the acronym S.T.E.P.S., which stands for String Training & Education in the Public Schools, the Youth Orchestra of Florida provided each child at the F.L.A.S.H. site with a violin, bow, case, music books, materials and weekly music lessons from professional staff, all free of charge. Due to the success of this program, the students will continue

the program in the fall and plans are in works to expand the music program to three other F.L.A.S.H. sites.

"This outreach program has played a major role in the educational experiences of these students," said **Mary Ann Slough**, City of Fort Lauderdale Recreation Program Coordinator who introduced the S.T.E.P.S. program at the Harbordale F.L.A.S.H. site. "The outstanding aspect of this program is that it provides second and third grade F.L.A.S.H. participants with violin and music education throughout their elementary school years."

The Youth Orchestra of Florida is also looking into grants that will fund the student's musical education through middle and high school years.



For more information on sites, programs and hours contact Mary Ann Slough at **761-5356**.

Community Appearance Awards Recap

In the last issue of Focus On Fort Lauderdale, an article showcasing the winners of the 1999 Community Appearance Awards misidentified three of the properties. We apologize for any inconvenience. Below, the corrections are displayed.



1999 House of The Year
Miller Residence

The appeal of this new single family home is its innovative use of material, scale and proportion. The integration of its architecture played a strong role in its selection as 1999 House of the Year.



San Juan / Carbonell Building
1451-57 NE 4 Ave.

This low rise building successfully incorporates the new construction needs of a commercial establishment without disturbing the aesthetics of the neighborhood.



21st Century Engineering
826 NE 20th Ave.

This renovation is one of the first business properties encouraging redevelopment along the 20th Avenue corridor and Gateway Plaza.

Summer Sizzles At ISHOF Complex

The International Swimming Hall Of Fame Aquatics Complex will host the 5th Latin American and Caribbean Masters Swimming Championship Sept. 6-11.

More than 1,000 masters swimmers, who now reside or were born in a Latin American or Caribbean country, will converge onto Fort Lauderdale's premiere aquatic complex for a week of meets. The championship will feature a special 3,000 meter event on Fort Lauderdale beach in addition to a series of other metered and freestyle events at the Aquatics Complex.

The complex is located at 501 Seabreeze Blvd. For information on recreational pool hours or other activities, call **468-1580**.



Fusion Kicks Up The Heat

Take the family for a day of soccer at any one of these upcoming Fusion soccer games at Lockhart Stadium. Group rates and season tickets are available.

For additional information, contact the stadium box office at **776-1921**, call TicketMaster at **523-3309** or the Miami Fusion Ticket Hotline at **1-888-Fusion4**.

The upcoming home games are as follows:

Aug. 21	DC United	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	Los Angeles	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	New England	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	Columbus	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Colorado	7:30 p.m.

Join the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club

Head for Holiday Park for Duplicate Bridge Masterpoint Games Mondays through Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. For more information, call **761-1577**.

NLC Looking For Input

Be the first to pre-register for the Neighborhood Leadership College, NLC. The staff of this award winning citizenship guide to building a better community needs your help in finalizing plans for the upcoming fall schedule. NLC, designed to provide citizens with an opportunity to better understand their community and the functions of local government, will offer a series of sessions to include Inside Your Local Government, Census 2000, Emergency Preparedness, Inside Our School System and more. For more information, call **468-1509**.

Fire Department Serves Outreach Program



The City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department has launched a community outreach program intended to answer all of your fire-

rescue and safety questions.

In an effort to continue providing quality service to city residents, representatives are now available to provide schools, homeowners groups, civic associations and other community organizations with valuable information about their fire-rescue services.

Please call **Jorge Mederos** at **627-6503** to schedule a presentation at your next association meeting.



Get Tax Relief At City Hall

Property owners required to submit proper documentation for annual tax savings

Florida has a \$25,000 homestead exemption on primary residences. This means that the first \$25,000 of assessed value of a home is exempt from property taxes. This results in substantial savings to homeowners each year. Once established, this exemption is automatically renewed each year.

Now City Hall is bringing the benefits of this tax relief to you. Property owners seeking homestead exemption should plan to visit the eighth floor break room of City Hall, at 100 N. Andrews Ave., between the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates: August 19; September 16; October 21; November 18; and January 20.

In order to receive the full \$25,000 exemption, property owners must bring the following items:

- Recorded warranty deed or tax bill in your name;
- Florida Driver's License;
- Florida Vehicle Registration;
- Florida Voter's Registration or declaration of domicile;
- Non-U.S. Citizens must have a permanent VISA, Green or Pink Card and a recorded declaration of domicile;
- Know your Social Security Number

Please note the following:

Husbands or wives may file for each other granted they bring all of the required documents for both. (Copies or originals)

Widows/Widowers are entitled to an additional \$500 exemption. Please provide proper documentation by way of a copy of a death certificate, newspaper clipping or memorial card.

Disability Exemption entitles disabled individuals an additional \$500 exemption. For the disability exemption, you must bring a VA disability letter/card or forms from two professionally unrelated Florida physicians.

For additional information please call the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office at **357-6830**.

Community Advisory Council Makes Recommendations To City Commission For Wingate Road Landfill Redevelopment

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission recently accepted recommendations from the Community Advisory Council (CAC) that the Wingate Road Landfill site be redeveloped for commercial and/or recreational purposes once the cleanup is finished.

"For us to get to this stage with this project is a milestone," said Fort Lauderdale Assistant City Manager **Greg Kisela**. "The CAC has done a commendable job in bringing their concerns to the table and they want to stay involved throughout the cleanup and redevelopment process. The next step is for the City of Fort Lauderdale to put out a request for proposals (RFP) to find interested developers."

Vice Mayor **Carlton B. Moore**, whose district includes Wingate, said the property needs to be redeveloped and was among the first city officials to accept the CAC's recommendation.

"We would like to thank the Community Advisory Council for the 18 months of hard work and dedication to this process," he added.

According to **Kassandra Barnes**, CAC co-chair, the group wants the end-use of the site to directly benefit residents of the community through jobs/employment, recreation and enhancement of physical appearance and property values. It must pose no environmental problems or hazards and provide long-term care monitoring for 30 years. The site should also serve mixed-use purposes consisting of compatible recreation and commercial uses. Barnes insisted that among the end-uses the CAC did not want to see are: any polluting businesses or eye sores, junk yards, auto repair shops, pawn shops, liquor stores and prisons/jails.

The CAC recommendations were the result of an American Assembly workshop where residents, along with EPA experts, city representatives and engineering consultants, focused on future uses of the site once the cleanup is in place. Tracking results of an earlier, community-wide survey, workshop participants favored a mix of recreational and commercial development to create a community asset on the site.

The cleanup and redevelopment of the 60-acre Wingate site, at 1300 NW 31st Ave., have been goals of the City since 1978, when the landfill and incinerator closed under an agreement with environmental regulators.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which placed Wingate on its Superfund list in 1990, issued a remediation plan in 1996 and enhanced the plan based on community input in late 1997.

W i n g a t e
U P D A T E

Wow Awards Woo Property Owners For Beautification Efforts

Think no one notices the little things you do to the exterior of your home? Think again.

Members of the Community Appearance Board, an advisory board of the City of Fort Lauderdale, have been recognizing the beautification efforts that homeowners have made to the exterior of their homes. Each month, the members select one home out of the four districts to highlight. With the help of sponsor Causeway Lumber, located on State Road 84, the home is showcased at the second monthly meeting of the City Commission and in the local media. Homeowners are also presented with a commendation from the City and a gift certificate from Causeway Lumber.

"The WOW award recognizes people who work very hard to make their homes beautiful which in turn enhances their neighborhood and the City," said **Mark Ketcham**, Community Appearance Board chair.

So, the next time you think no one is paying attention, think again. Your home could be the next to WOW the community.



The July WOW Award recognizes the Sternola residence. Located at one of the two entranceways to Coral Shores, the home and cultured landscaping has served as a role model for the neighborhood for many years. Michelle Sternola, who was raised in this home, is now raising her own family of three with husband Michael.

City Awarded \$200,000 For Redevelopment

Armed with a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, four sites in the City of Fort Lauderdale will receive special attention.

The sites, which have been designated for clean up and redevelopment under the 1999 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot Program, are located in the City's Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area. The specific sites include the proposed Technology Park, the area surrounding Lincoln Park, the I-95 and Broward Boulevard area, and the area east of the F.E.C. Railway south to Sistrunk Boulevard. The City's Brownfields Program, which stresses areas that are designated as abandoned, contaminated properties, will be implemented throughout the next two years.

The City of Fort Lauderdale, one of only

three communities in Florida awarded this type of grant, received the maximum allowable grant for the sites. Funds will be used specifically for environmental analysis and assessments, cleanup feasibility and implementation planning.

"This grant gives us the opportunity to implement a revitalization program, bring the properties up to code, increase the local tax base, prevent further environmental damage and transform the areas into thriving areas," said **Floyd T. Johnson**, City of Fort Lauderdale City Manager.

More than \$11 million in grants were awarded to 57 communities across the country this year. With more than 300 brownfield grants awarded since the inception of this federal program, the program has awarded a total of \$69 million to communities. These grants have allocated nearly \$1 billion for redevelopment and created several thousand jobs in the process.

City Approves Fire-Rescue Assessment

At a July 20th public hearing, City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioners unanimously approved a fire rescue assessment that allows the City's Fire-Rescue Department to operate its own fire and emergency medical services.

The new assessment will replace a fee that Fort Lauderdale property owners previously paid to Broward County.

"Through this assessment, we can provide increased services for Fort Lauderdale residents at a better rate than Broward County is currently proposing for the same levels of service," said Fire Chief **Otis Latin, Sr.**

The assessment will provide:

- * A 30% increase in services with the addition of two new rescue trucks and the upgrades of three advanced life support fire engines;

- * Additional firefighter/paramedics and communications personnel to handle emergency calls.

By running independent fire-rescue services, Fort Lauderdale will realize lower costs for increased services, better organization and direct accountability.

"The most important benefit for residents will be improved response times, which is critical in any emergency," said EMS Chief **Don DiPetrillo**.

Carter Park Tennis Program Serves Up Youth Advantages

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation has entered into a partnership with the South Florida Youth Tennis Program (SFYTP) that has transformed Carter Park into a full-service tennis facility.

The tennis program, designed to meet the academic and recreational needs of youth and adults, is serving the following:

The **Junior Program** offers junior players group and individual lessons ranging from basic to competitive level instruction. Junior Programs offer instruction on sports science, nutrition and fitness training as well the opportunity to participate in

Junior Team Tennis, Rallyball and tournaments.

The **Tennis and Tutorial Program**, beginning this fall, will assist youth with their academic progress by offering students in the



after school tennis program the ability to obtain homework assistance. This program is designed to prepare the junior participants to receive a tennis or academic college scholarship.

Adult Programs serve the needs of tennis-seeking adults with individual and group lessons. **Tennis Under the Stars** is designed with the working person in mind by offering evening training for youth and adults. In addition to lessons and league play, this program offers round robin play, adult/youth activities and open court time.

For more information, contact **Whitney Kraft** at 761-5379.



Tree Plantings Climb By 50% For Tree2000

More than 1000 trees have been planted throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale by residents, businesses and organizations through various programs for the Tree2000 effort.

Tree2000, led by the Parks and Recreation Department, is an effort designed to commemorate the start of a new century, to provide for the tree canopies of future generations and to promote tree planting within the City. The ultimate goal is to plant and register 2000 trees by December 31, 1999.

Already, Tree2000 commemorations have been recorded in the following areas: Colee Hammock, Knoll Ridge, River Oaks, Victoria Park, Lauderdale Manors, Croissant Park, Imperial Point and Lake Ridge.

Fort Lauderdale has two tree planting programs available. Through the Adopt-A-Tree program, individuals or groups can plant a tree in honor of a loved one in one of the City cemeteries. The price is \$100 for a flowering tree, \$200 for a tree and plaque.

A form can be downloaded from Fort Lauderdale Online - <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us>. For additional information, contact **Gene Dempsey**, City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forester, at 761-5785 or by e-mail at GeneD@ci.ftlaud.fl.us.

TREE2000 UPDATE